

THE GATEWAY

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U of A research income rises to rank second nationally

JENNIFER HUYGEN
Senior News Editor

The University of Alberta has posted impressive gains in research funding according to *Canada's Top 50 Research Universities List 2008*, finishing second in the category of research income with \$461.4 million earned during the 2007 fiscal year.

The dollar figure signals a 20.5 per cent increase in income for the U of A, up from the \$382.8 million and fifth-place ranking garnered in 2006.

According to Dr Lorne Babiuk, U of A Vice President (Research), the increase can be attributed to a strong foundation of faculty research and an increased quantity of grant proposals.

"We have had a lot of our faculty putting in a lot of grants," Babiuk explained.

"I think it's just related to the quality of the faculty that we have at this University and the quality of the proposals they're putting forward that are getting funded, and so we're really excited about that."

The University also placed third in the *Research University of the Year 2008 Medical/Doctoral* category, behind the University of Toronto and McGill University.

The annual rankings are released by Research Infosource Inc, one of Canada's leading providers of intelligence research for business and higher education. Placements take into account both financial input measures, including research income and faculty research intensity, and research output and input measures such as

publication numbers and impact.

"You can argue about the way rankings are done. This was on the financial inputs very clear, you can't argue with the dollars," Babiuk said.

"Then there's the research outputs—that's the number of publications and citations and so on—so those are all formulated into that making of third in [the medical/doctoral] category. Regardless, we're doing very well in the country in comparison to our colleagues."

The top 50 universities commanded an increase of 1.5 per cent in terms of research intensity, citing slow income growth and a modest increase in faculty as causes of the downgraded increase. The U of A also finished second in this category, taking in an average of \$301 000 in research income per full-time faculty position, compared to the national average of \$158 000.

Babiuk noted that this funding comes from a variety of sources and is spread across the sciences, engineering, and arts faculties on campus.

"It's a real blend. We have funding from the federal government [...] There's another big chunk from industry and university-industry matching programs, so there's a lot of chair [positions] and cooperative research grants. And there's provincial funding, and then there's even international funding," he remarked.

The strong U of A showing comes despite slow national growth in the 2007 fiscal year. Total research income across the country came in at \$5.7 billion, up 3.5 per cent from \$5.5 billion in fiscal 2006.



SAMBROOKS

AWKWARDLY TANGLED Golden Bear Jesse Gimblett collides a Cougars defenceman in a 2-1 victory. Details on page 11.

Alberta universities posted an overall 10.7 per cent growth, with the University of Calgary and University of Lethbridge also placing in the Top 50. However, both institutions recorded decreases in funding and a decline in the rankings to 8th and 38th respectively.

As Babiuk explained, the strong showing in this year's Research Infosource list underlines the importance of research in postsecondary institutions.

"Research funding is absolutely pivotal to the success of a university, because research funding supports

graduate students, research funding supports the develop of new ideas and new concepts by professors, and if professors do their research they can then translate it to the undergrad students, and they can get the students excited about the latest developments that are happening."

GFC delegates sub-committee to study rewording of U of A convocation charge

JENNIFER HUYGEN
Senior News Editor

The first steps towards a decision on the controversial application to remove or re-word the University of Alberta's convocation charge—and the mention of students using their degrees to "the glory of God"—were made at a meeting of the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee Monday afternoon.

The committee passed a motion to strike a sub-committee for the purpose of drafting proposals to alter the current wording of the convocation charge, consulting with the U of A community on such changes, and reporting back to the GFC Executive Committee.

While no concrete changes were made, a general consensus was reached amongst committee members that some sort of adjustment is appropriate.

"I think that even though this phrase was probably intended to be generic, it is not in the year 2008 generic, and I think it needs to be changed," said Dr Russ Brown of the Academic Staff Association.

"But at the same time a convocation charge needs to be maintained, [...] the question is how do we get there?"

It is now the responsibility of the sub-committee to propose recommended changes to the convocation charge and engage in targeted consultation with different stakeholder groups on campus and in the community to determine the most acceptable wording.

While no exact details were discussed in terms of who will sit on the sub-committee and when it will meet, it was determined that a decision would try to be enacted for the upcoming April convocation.

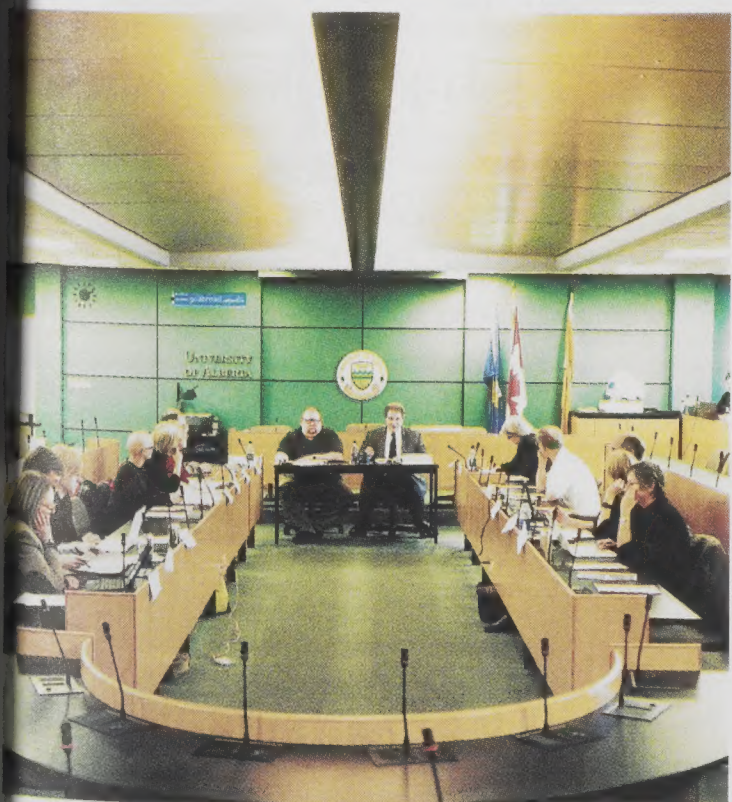
The meeting was chaired by Provost

and Vice President (Academic) Carl Amrhein, who brought the committee up to speed on what had transpired since last Monday's special meeting of the GFC Executive Committee, where 18 speakers were invited to share their thoughts on the issue.

"In addition to the discussion last Monday, there have been many communications sent in to the President's Office concerning the issue—some in favour, some opposed, and some urging that it remain the same," Amrhein remarked.

"So the entire University committee is certainly engaged in the question. From my view, this is the sort of topic that deserves the full attention of the University community, and the Executive Committee is, I think, the organizing committee of this discussion, but it is a wide-ranging discussion."

PLEASE SEE GFC • PAGE 4



PETEYEE

CONVOCATION CONSENSUS Members of the GFC Executive Committee met Monday to decide how to proceed with changes to the convocation charge.

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Two-year campaign

And it's finally wrapping up. In the spirit of the season, *Gateway* writers offer their takes on the process.

OPINION FEATURE, PAGE 7



Two Hours Traffic

At the Polaris Prize after-party, the PEI band's guitarist celebrated by smashing a beer bottle on the bar

A&E, PAGE 8

THE GATEWAY

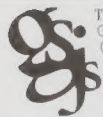
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colophon

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contributors

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Emotional crisis guide printed with students in mind

KIRSTEN GORUK
Deputy News Editor

Over the course of earning a degree, university students face a daunting amount of pressure and stress, which can stem from school, work, and relationships. With that in mind, a University of Alberta psychologist with University Health Centre Student Counselling Services has created a guide to help students cope with emotional crisis.

Dr Kim Maertz has been working at the U of A for ten years and in his experience, creating this guide was necessary to making sure that his office is able to aid those students who are seeking help.

"Over the last several years, we've had a lot of students who are experiencing various forms of crisis, and because we unfortunately don't have nearly enough staff, we've got to find a way to try to meet the needs without seeing clients only for individual counselling," he explained.

According to Maertz, the University should have 19 psychologists to accommodate its student population, but his office has the equivalent of five. This discrepancy is what pushed Maertz to write the guide, and in the process, get the necessary information out to students in whatever form possible.

"The guide is something that we're hoping will have some enduring qualities for a while because the information shouldn't be changing over the next few years," Maertz noted.

Using his years of experience with Student Counselling Services and a PhD in counselling psychology, Maertz was able to provide another resource for students on campus.

"I think that [my experience] has

put me in a position where I know what information to draw on and have accumulated some just from working with clients over the ten years. [I wanted to] put it out there so that it's in an easy, succinct, readable form for students who are facing all kinds of emotional crises," he said.

The guide itself is divided into three sections: ways to identify whether you as a student are in crisis, general strategies to deal with crisis, and resources to deal with those situations or suicidal thoughts. Distribution to students will take place through residences, faculties, and through the Student Counselling Services office.

"Over the last several years we've had a lot of students who are experiencing various forms of crisis."

DR KIM MAERTZ
PSYCHOLOGIST

"We see a lot of clients, and as a result, when they come in on what we call 'initial consultations' and [when] we're unable to accommodate them, we'll send them away with a guide," Maertz explained.

As Maertz sees it, the amount of students seeking help for coping with depression isn't surprising and he attributes part of the problem to stress related to finances.

"Students are probably working more jobs today than they've ever worked in the past. Previously, I think a lot of students had funding from parents and today a lot of students are



PETE YEE

HELPING HAND Dr Kim Maertz recently published a guide to help students cope with emotional stress and depression related to university life.

doing it on their own," he said.

"And if you're working one, two, sometimes we have students with three jobs and they're taking full-time classes—how could you not end up stressed out?" Maertz added.

In working with the University's clients, Maertz feels there are three major issues facing students—depression, stress, and relationships.

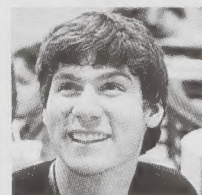
And the simple fact that school isn't the only aspect of a student's life that can be difficult is why he hopes students will take advantage of the free help the guide is providing.

"The degree of stress today on the university campus is quite enormous. Students don't just end up today dealing with classes, but they're dealing with a wide variety of other stresses."

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Lucas Wagner and Pete Yee

As you may be aware, the United States citizens go to the polls today.

Between Obama and McCain, who do you think has the greater chance of dying in office and how would it go down?**Richard Clark**
Physics IV**Rob Kaiser**
Political Science IV**Neil Butt**
Engineering IV**Emily Vespi**
Anthropology IV

I think that if Obama gets in, he'd get assassinated. People are just racist sometimes, you know?

I think that if John McCain gets elected, then obviously Sarah Palin will murder him, because she's a robot!

McCain, because he's old. I mean, what else can I say? I don't want to say that the black guy would get assassinated, because that's racist.

If John McCain died, it would probably be due to some ridiculous Cheney-esque hunting accident, with Sarah Palin shooting him.



Mus·tache (also mous·tache)
\müs'tāsh', mə-stāsh'\ noun.

1. The hair growing on the human upper lip, especially when cultivated and groomed.
2. Something that lady editors don't have, but wish they did.

Here at the Gateway, the boys might play games, but the women rule with an iron fist. Drop by our office in SUB 3-04 and find out first hand. We're always looking for new volunteers with a fresh perspective (moustache not mandatory).

THE GATEWAY

living vicariously since 1910.

PETA ranks U of A amongst top 16 vegetarian-friendly campuses

SEAN STEELS
News Staff

The University of Alberta has taken a bite out of the competition to earn a place as one of the country's top 16 vegetarian-friendly campuses.

The 16 schools were compiled as part of an online contest to determine which will rank highest amongst the country's vegetarians by the website www.Peta2.com—an extension of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) animal rights group.

"The changes we're seeing at the U of A are coming at a time when there is a growing shift across the country towards healthier, more humane cuisine—particularly on college campuses," wrote Ryan Huling, PETA's College Campaign Coordinator in an email to the Gateway.

"This nomination shows that U of A clearly takes the requests and concerns of their students seriously, which is something they can be proud of."

The voting system places universities in a knockout tournament in which they face off against one another to advance through rounds. The original 16 universities were assembled through feedback from users of the social networking sites Facebook and MySpace, as well as by email request asking about the "consistency and quality of meatless options available in dining halls."

While Alberta is largely seen as a powerhouse of meat consumption, its vegetarian options have been growing over the last decade.

For Audrey Bray, manager of the vegetarian restaurant Café Mosaics on Whyte Avenue, the campus area's transition to a vegetarian-friendly space has been long but rewarding.

"When we opened this restaurant twelve years ago, we sat around and drank coffee all day," she admitted.

"But now we're busy all day, all night,



PETE YEE

APPLE OF MY EYE Vice President Flath weighs in on the U of A's vegetarian options.

all weekend, all the time. The fact that we're in the University area, I think that contributes a lot to our business."

But the U of A's presence on PETA's list has also illuminated areas of deficiency in campus' vegetarian catering. While meat-free alternatives are present at most campus eateries, there is no vegetarian-specific restaurant on campus. Also, vegan options are few and far between.

"Students' Union businesses have some great vegetarian options throughout campus and in HUB. I think we have a lot of room to improve on what we have to offer, but it's at least a start," said Kristin Flath, SU Vice President (Student Life).

"[The University realizes] that there is more demand now for health and wellness. Whether or not that translates into anything else, I'm not sure of at this point."

Nowhere are these deficiencies more evident than in the daily lives of vegetarian students on campus.

Adriana Ayers is a third-year history student at the U of A and seven-year vegetarian. When asked whether or not she could easily spend a week eating on campus, she was quick to point out that there's a difference between getting by with her meals and choosing them comfortably.

"There is always an item or two on each menu, but there's no outright option," Ayers said.

"That ranking implies that we're doing well, which to me says there's no room for improvement. I just don't think that's the case."

Ayers also believes that strongly inflating the U of A's ranking is an increase in ethnically diverse restaurants such as Indian and Chinese eateries which are culturally geared towards a vegetarian lifestyle, and not an explicit attempt to increase vegetarian options.

"If the U of A is getting this ranking and I don't see any extravagant vegetarian options, then what are other universities doing?"

U of A professor details effects of listeriosis

JUSTINE MILTON
News Staff

On Friday afternoon, Dr Lynn McMullen, a professor of Agriculture, Food, and Nutritional Science at the University of Alberta, gave a lecture on Listeria and how outbreaks occur, explaining the process in which she discovered listeria infections in meat processing plants in 2008.

"[Listeria] is one of the nastiest pathogens out there," McMullen said to the audience at the Hole Lecture Theatre last week.

As she explained, Listeria should not typically survive heat treatment, meaning any outbreak that occurs has done so after the product has been cooked. Meat processing plants are ideal places for this growth to occur due to the low temperatures present.

"If you read on some of the websites from the Canadian Partnership for Food Safety Education, keeping it cold will keep things safe—when it comes to Listeria that's not true. This organism is one of very few that grows in temperatures in the refrigerator," McMullen explained.

Listeria differs from other food-borne infections because of its 70-day incubation period. Over that span of time, Listeria produces a compound known as listeriolysin O which mediates growth of the organism in vacuoles in the body's cells and tissues.

"Not only can it invade—it's a very

invasive organism—but it can multiply once it gets in there, which is why this organism causes such a problem," McMullen said.

For healthy adults, small doses of this organism will not have an effect. However, it is more likely in individuals with weaker immune systems—children, the elderly, pregnant women, and those with liver disease—to become part of a statistic.

"Not only can it invade [...] but it can multiply once it gets in there, which is why this organism causes such a problem."

DR LYNN MCMULLEN
PROFESSOR OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND
NUTRITIONAL SCIENCE

Listeria can cross over placental and blood barriers, potentially causing spontaneous abortions, miscarriages, and still births; initially pregnant women will show flu-like symptoms until the infection passes to the fetus. It can also infect the blood stream of the immuno-compromised and cause meningitis and encephalitis.

This year, Canada witnessed two simultaneous outbreaks—one in

processed meats and the other in raw milk cheeses.

"We typically don't get large outbreaks of listeriosis—what we usually get is sporadic cases here and there," McMullen said.

"The problem is about 30 per cent of the people in an outbreak will die. It's one of the highest mortality rates of any food-borne disease," she added.

In looking into the effects of Listeriosis, McMullen tipped off the Listeria buzz by completing a study in which she took meat products from the retail marketplace in Edmonton and looked for Listeria species. Working in conjunction with a government laboratory certified for Listeria analysis, she was required to report any findings hazardous to human health to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

"When we started finding Listeria monocytogenes, every time we found one of these it resulted in a recall. I was not a very popular person in the meat industry this summer. I was told that I cost one company \$50 million just because we did this study," McMullen said proudly.

After explaining how Listeria can exist in raw vegetables as well as meats, she alarmed the audience with recent examples of other food borne infections such as Salmonella in peanut butter and E coli in spinach. Overall, McMullen warned students to be careful of what they eat.

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UAAA president pleased with decision

GFC • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The initial discussion was brought forward with a petition submitted at last week's meeting on behalf of the U of A Atheists and Agnostics (UAAA) to remove the reference to God in the convocation charge.

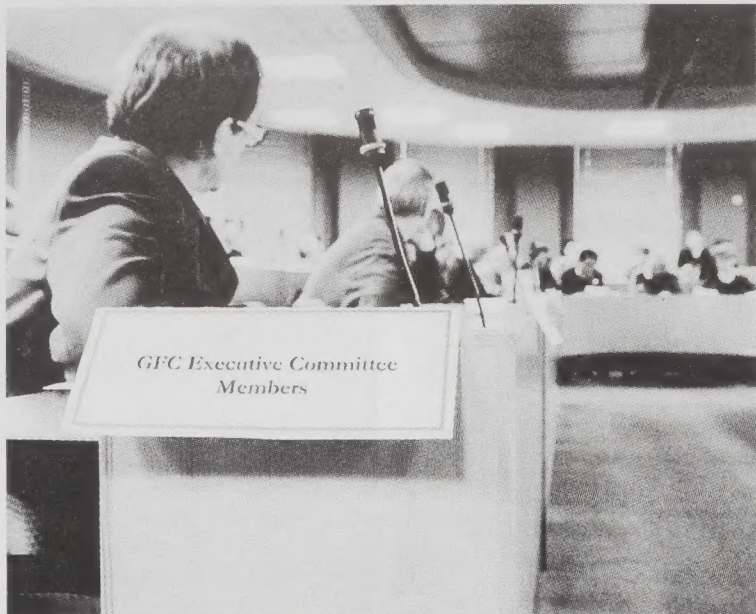
Monday's decision was met with approval by UAAA president Ian Bushfield.

"It's optimistic and promising. It's a slow process like any university bureaucracy, but I'm happy to see things progressing," he offered.

"It seems like they want to move forward with a different kind of wording or something new. I'm happy that they're seeing the different views and willing to try to make everyone as happy as possible."

The Executive Committee agreed on the divisiveness of the issue and talked about the need to keep the format of a charge and create one inclusive to all constituencies on campus.

"In talking with the students, it's quite evident that there is no sort of decisive opinion on this issue—you have Christians who want to keep it,



IN GFC WE TRUST Committee members talk about modifying the charge.

you have Christians that don't want to keep it, you have atheists that want to get rid of it and you have atheists that feel comfortable with it as well," explained GFC Executive student

representative Nick Dehod.

"I guess what is sort of consistent though is that people believe we should create something inclusive for others."

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Mike Otto

AN ALL TOO COMMON OCCURENCE

Just before midnight on 24 October, Campus Security was called to Lister about a male student that was passed out drunk. Officers determined he wasn't in need of medical attention, and he was left in the care of a sober friend for the rest of the night.

WRONG WAY CROOKED

In the early morning hours of 25 October, 5-0 pulled over a vehicle driving the wrong way down a one-way street. Officers determined the driver was intoxicated, and when asked for his license, he produced the car's operating manual. He was arrested, and when put in the back of the CSS cruiser, promptly passed out. Edmonton Police was called and the drunk driver was given a 24-hour suspension.

THE EVACUATION OF A WOMAN: A TRAGEDY IN ONE ACT

Around 3am on 25 October, officers found a girl throwing up in the middle of

the road at 111 Street and 89 Avenue. She was a resident of International House and was left in the care of a sober friend.

YOU AUTUMN LIVE SOMEWHERE ELSE

Just before noon on 25 October, a roughly six-storey tall tree fell on a frat house in the east campus area. All residents of the house were evacuated and are now staying in local hotels until the damage is repaired. Damage is estimated at \$20 000.

THROW THE BOOK AT HIM

After noon on 25 October, 5-0 responded to a report of two males arguing in Rutherford Library. One of the two was a not a student and had been dealt with by Campus Security on a number of occasions. He was escorted to the transit station and left on a bus. The other male was a student and he was left to study in peace.

PUNCH DRUNK

Shortly after 10pm on 25 October, auxiliary officers patrolling Lister were approached by a resident regarding another student that had punched through a window. The resident in question was extremely drunk and had numerous deep cuts on his punching hand. He was transported to the hospital for treatment.

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The election's end is mercifully near

AS THE DAWN BREAKS IN THE UNITED STATES today, a record-number of Americans are expected to take time out of their busy schedules and clamour into voting booths accented by the soothing hum of Diebold machines. By the time 5pm rolls around in California, numbers will finally start coming down the pipe in what will be the gripping conclusion of the biggest prize-fight in American politics—and I, for one, couldn't be happier.

Like many unfortunate others, I've had to spend at least the last twelve months wading through countless news stories, political commentaries, and satire pieces—without completely shutting myself off from the Internet or television, of course—trying to find a light at the end of the tunnel. And although I'm sure that I can expect at least a few more days of hearing about why so-and-so won, all this time spent leading up to this point just goes to show that the US Electoral College takes way too long to decide a winner.

It was almost two years ago—even though it feels more like a decade—that prospective candidates on both sides of the Senate floor began forming exploratory committees and eagerly announcing that they were running for their party's Presidential nomination. Ever since then, so much useless crap related to this election has found its way into my daily news package, whether it's results from a straw poll, the primary numbers from Guam, banter about potential first ladies, or one of the candidates making a brief stop to repeat their campaign platform for the millionth time to the fine folks of Sandusky, Ohio. Sure, I'll concede that there have been some pretty heavy-duty storylines leading up to today that have made this one of the more interesting elections: the likelihood that Obama will prove Tupac Shakur wrong and become the first black president, the possibility that we might see the first female vice-president, whether or not McCain can actually live out an entire term, for starters. However, when every inch of life is beaten out of these storylines almost every night over a 24-month period, it's not hard to understand why someone like myself gets frustrated.

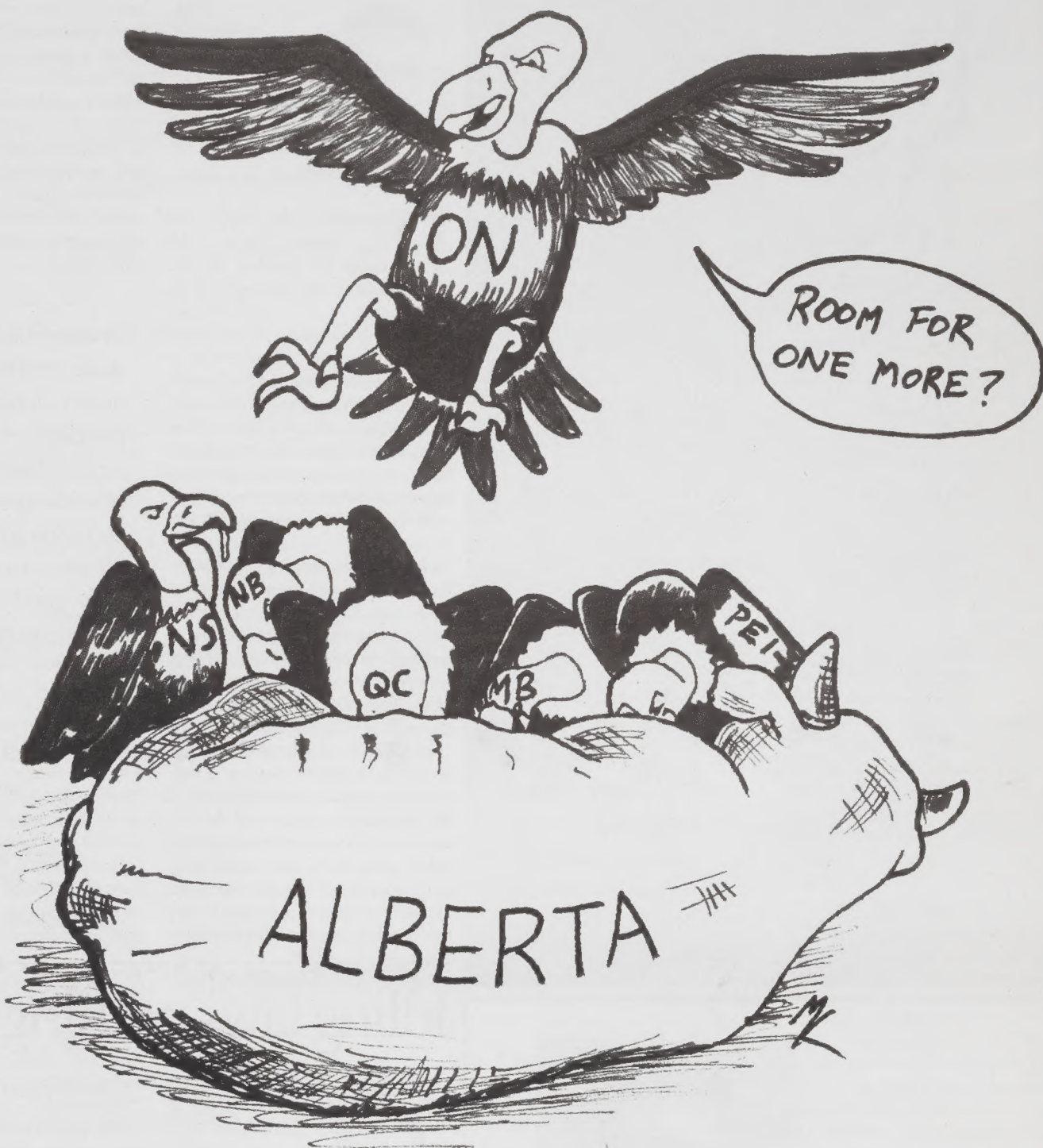
And these little tidbits of electoral nothingness haven't just been limited to the CNNs and Fox Newses of the world, either. I knew things had gotten particularly bad when the electoral tripe spewed into my daily sports fix upon hearing that John McCain—as part of the extensive campaigning that these Presidential-types do—had called out Barack Obama for publicly supporting both the Philadelphia Phillies and the Tampa Bay Rays in the World Series, to apparently try and swing votes in Pennsylvania and Florida. Seems like the only thing immune from this drivel is the weather forecast—but who the hell wants to hear about cirrus clouds and high-pressure areas for an entire half-hour newscast?

I have a couple of suggestions that might remix the nation's leadership decision-making process. Perhaps the US could borrow a page out of Canada's playbook by having a leader elected within the party by secret ballot and just letting the people vote on the lesser of two evils. Remember that the American people put George W Bush in the Republican chair and kept him in office for two terms, so they're better off not getting to elect nominees anyways. Let the two candidates campaign for a couple of weeks, hold an election night, and be done with it. Simple.

Or, hold an election similar to how the International Olympic Committee selects a delegate city for an Olympic Games. Throw all of the candidates into one big pot, have people vote on a round-by-round basis, and eliminate the losers at the end of each round before working your way down to one. Sure, it would take a few days to get to a final result, but you could still wrap things up in a fraction of the time.

Regardless, one of two things needed to happen in time for the 2012 US election—either the media needs to stop pimping every execrably-small detail from the campaign trail, or American law-makers need to sit down and find a way to wrap up this whole production in a more efficient manner, because I'm certain that I'm not the only one tired of hearing about it.

NICK FROST
Sports Editor



MIKE KENDRICK

LETTERS

University can't pander to all minority beliefs

All right, all right—this has gone on far enough. The controversy about the use of the term "God" in the convocation ceremony has been overblown, especially by the media and the UAAA. The fact here is that a very small minority on campus is attempting to dictate the ceremony. Now, I'm all for minority rights and the right of the minority to express an opinion, but I draw the line when the minority tries to set what the majority should and shouldn't do.

Sure, a petition's been filed with 189 signatures on it to change convocation, but that leaves 30-some thousand students that didn't feel the need to change it. If the majority of students (or even a sizable minority, in the thousands of students) wished to change the convocation, then and only then should the University even consider the issue.

If the University caves to this minority opinion, what's to stop other minority groups from requesting unneeded changes? Next thing you know, we'll have requests to have the ceremony done in every language of graduates present, or have a trained team of acrobats fly through the air to hand out degrees, or what have you. The fact here is that if every whim of every minority is catered to, then the very structure

of our society is weakened.

The issue here isn't even about religion. It's about having tiny portions of students force the rest of us to follow what they think should be done. To the UAAA: if it bothers you that much, cover your ears during that part, or don't attend the ceremony at all. That's your right. Heck, if you don't believe in a god anyway, you can just dismiss that part and move on—after all, if you don't believe in a god, it won't affect you one way or the other in your life. If the majority of students have a belief in a deity of some kind, then you have nothing to gain from stamping out the reference to God in the convocation.

MYLES SAVOIE
Engineering II

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please), or placed in a mysterious, anonymous envelope and dropped off at 3-04 SUB.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Frats promote slavery

As so often happens in the realm of everyday existence, one is prompted to proceed along a certain train of thought because of comments one hears in passing. This was the case last week.

As I was riding my usual bus home, my reading was interrupted by a conversation that was occurring behind me, namely, a fraternity pledge was discussing with a female companion the trials and tribulations of the rise to manhood in the fraternity system. I didn't manage to catch the full extent of the conversation, but a few salient points did reach my ear. Among the comments made by the pledge were, "oh, we have to wash the dishes every night, get cigarettes for the actives, get beer for the actives, answer the door; you know, those sort of things."

This alarmed and frightened me. In a world where we strive towards equality and where the status and benefits of a class should be attainable by all without subservience to an elite group, the fraternity system as it is now constructed finds no place.

Being a former fraternity member, I speak from experience. I am all too familiar with the

pledgeship process. Most of the fraternities on this campus (I say most, because not all have similar policies) would be well-advised to abandon their present system of recruitment. Pledges deserve the right to be accorded the same benefits as actives and should not be subject to harassment (for that is precisely what it is: physical and subtly psychological) in order to achieve equal status.

There is no doubt that these comments will be snickered at by some current actives, but only those who are devoid of any moralistic and humanistic inclinations. Please don't misread the intent of this letter. A fraternity is an excellent way for a person to grow, not only socially, but emotionally and intellectually as well, and I am glad that I was part of it. However, if it is going to continue to succeed, major changes are in order. Tread carefully, first-year students.

GUY C GERMAIN
18 September, 1986

Letters from the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance—or are just really hilarious.

Now you can check out all the old-timey fun for yourself! Just go to thegatewayonline.ca and follow the links to the Gateway's digital archives.

He's not quite the Obamessiah

Barack may have the makings of a great leader, but he can't turn water into wine



PAUL
KNOECHEL

Depending on when you read this, Barack Obama will either be president of the United States of America, or almost be the president.

"Hey, wait a minute, isn't it a little arrogant to predict the winner of a political contest before the final results are in?" Thank you for that, concerned hypothetical reader, but let me allay your concerns. This election is, for all intents and purposes, over. America is engaged to Barack, and now all they need is the official ceremony to seal the deal.

Obama is a talented orator, young, charismatic, inspiring, and too new on the political scene to have any real dirt on him. McCain, on the other hand, is tied both to the most unpopular war since Vietnam and the man who will most likely go down in US history as the worst president to date.

And don't start talking about latent racism in the States causing a last-minute swing for McCain. That's a bullshit theory perpetuated by the news to fool people into thinking this is going to be close in any way, shape, or form. It's so past the point of being a competition that I have no problem predicting an Obama

presidency right here and now.

So, with Obama making his inaugural trip to the Oval Office any day now, it's fairly obvious what we can expect. Brilliant economic policies will totally redirect the US economy to new heights of prosperity, daring social reforms will create a nation with universal and effective health care, and through sheer ballsy financial planning, 95 per cent of the American working class will get a sweet new tax cut.

Obama is still just a dude. And he's just one dude in a very large political system that seems almost incapable of working towards a common goal—even if that common goal is the good of the American people.

If you believe all of that, I also have some amazing vacation property I'd love to sell you. It's time to wake up America—while Obama will most likely bring change, it'll be slow in its arrival and limited in scope. He can't solve all your problems.

I'm not trying to put Obama down here or anything; quite the contrary. From everything I've garnered in my semi-interested collection of

knowledge about this election, he has the makings of a fine Commander-in-Chief. And I don't think anyone would suggest that he won't be an improvement on the current head of the executive. What I'm trying to put down is this "Obamania" that's helping push Barack towards the presidency.

Obama isn't being limited in his abilities because of who he is, but by the position that he is attempting to acquire. The presidency isn't a throne of magic that will allow him to change the country on a whim, but a position of political influence.

He's not going to be able to solve the laundry list of woes that have been accumulating for years now, and a lot of people are going to be very disappointed when after a couple months of him being in power, they start to realize that Obama is still just a dude. And he's just one dude in a very large political system that seems almost incapable of working towards a common goal—even if that common goal is the good of the American people.

Yes, it's good that people are getting excited about this election and that they've found a candidate that they can throw themselves behind and feel good about. It's wonderful that they will demand change from this person that has promised so much of it, and they will hope for better governance. But people really have to remember that they're still electing a politician; nothing more, nothing less.

Idling laws nothing but blowing smoke



MIKE
CHAFE

"No city can have the manpower needed to prevent motorists from idling a few minutes too long. There's no virtue in using taxpayer money to have bylaw officers stake out an Arby's drive-thru simply to write a \$100 fine to the guy who forgot to turn off his vehicle before getting intimate with his curly fries."

Environmentalism is cool. The green-friendly fad has quickly risen in popularity amongst people young and old. Governments too are attempting to appeal to earth-friendly voters by creating legislation to aid in the battle of saving the environment.

I was surprised to learn that the city of St Albert recently joined other municipalities in Alberta, such as Jasper and Hinton, in passing an anti-idling bylaw with hopes of reducing harmful automobile emissions and preventing them from further eroding our ozone layer.

The bylaw essentially states that no fossil-fuel powered vehicles shall idle for a period longer than three minutes over a half-hour span of time. Those who violate this new bylaw will receive a \$100 fine in the name of the Earth.

For most eco-friendly minds, this is a seemingly brilliant ploy to stop the nefarious army of chemical toxins produced by motor vehicles from converting our air into a disgusting, inhuman, poisonous mess of toxic sludge. However, this idealistic vision fails to materialize when the practical implications of the law are considered.

In the fine print of this legislation comes a multitude of exemptions that make this new law impractical and useless. Exceptions include

cases when the ambient temperature exceeds 30 degrees or drops below zero degrees, emergency vehicles, vehicles with passengers actively embarking or disembarking, and vehicles that must idle in order to operate electrical equipment. I also believe motorists are exempt on the Pope's birthday, Guy Fawkes Day, and weekdays ending with "Y."

With such a large list of exemptions, the practicality of an anti-idling law is questionable. If anything, the lengthy list simply provides accused offenders with a variety of options to present in court to avoid the fine. Giving guidelines to when a law should be followed defeats its entire purpose.

If the point of legislation is to reduce vehicle emissions through the prevention of idling, then everyone should have to follow it, no matter what the circumstances. Making sacrifice for the betterment of the world shouldn't be embodied through some pathetically passive means.

I'd also argue over whether it's practical to enforce such a law. No city can have the manpower needed to prevent motorists from idling a few minutes too long. There's no virtue in using taxpayer money to have bylaw officers stake out an Arby's drive-thru simply to write a \$100 fine to the poor guy who forgot to turn off his vehicle before getting intimate with

his curly fries.

The amount of money needed to enforce the law would be astronomical and unwarranted when compared to the number of motorists who would actually be caught violating it. Law enforcement has difficulty maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment to provide adequate coverage for cities as it is, so it's damn near impossible to keep tabs on the thousands of motorists constantly operating vehicles.

This new bylaw simply isn't practical. The money wasted on establishing and enforcing an anti-idling bylaw could've been better used on other, more effective, environmental causes. Perhaps this money could have gone to create an education and advertisement campaign to promote awareness on the harmful effects of vehicle emissions. It could have been used to begin the development of a solar or wind energy network that could one day free us from the chains of our infatuated dependency on oil. This money could even have been used to construct a robotic Al Gore who would kneel you in the groin every time you start your old Honda.

There's no doubting that we must make some serious changes in order to save the earth, but purely symbolic and unfeasible legislation will only provide self-satisfaction for those who write it.



"Satire is tragedy plus time. You give it enough time, the public, the reviewers will allow you to satirize it. Which is rather ridiculous, when you think about it."

- Lenny Bruce

**GATEWAY
OPINION:**
Assaulting the status quo since 1910.

Volunteer meetings Thursdays at 4pm, Room 3-04 SUB.

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca

Betting on a Fight Night

A look at the upcoming American election

Written by the Gateway Staff
Illustrated by Kelsey Tanasiuk

It's finally 4 November: the monumental event two years in the making comes to a close this night. It's been a rare political occurrence so entertaining and so pervasive that it's made apathy more work than involvement for better or for worse. It's been a spectacle that will be archived and analyzed for centuries, and we've experienced it all first hand. We laughed, we cried, we learned to love and, much more importantly, to hate. In reflection, Gateway writers evaluate the candidates and the campaigns.

Kevin Day

JOHN MCCAIN

There's been much ink spilled over the American election, and since it's almost over, I might as well bore you all with another rehashing of it. For the most part, the 2008 vote has been one of genuine interest. In one corner we have Senator Barack "Government" Obama, and in the other we have Senator John "Where Did I Put My Dentures" McCain.

One is supposedly a man of the world and a true visionary that's offering America a chance to "get beyond the politics of division" and enter a new era. The other is a hero from a forgotten and much derided war, who was abused as a prisoner but overcame it, becoming a reasonably successful senator. Just think: when Senator Obama takes office, the second most powerful man in the world will be black (the most powerful man is the Pope).

The only thing more interesting than the candidates themselves was the nomination process. The American political process has always been rather sensational and this year was no exception. First, we had the "Dempocalypse" in the words of that great sage of American politics Stephen Colbert. We all thought that Hillary would sweep the nomination processes and walk all over the GOP to arrive at the White House without breaking a sweat. We believed that the election would be a coronation. Not so much.

Obama's rise nearly tore the Dems apart, much to the glee of the Republican Party. I will admit that it was fun to see the primary process in action. In fact, I was dodging sniper fire all week between classes.

Well, enough about the process—I feel that the Bob Barr's Libertarian platform best represents my beliefs. However, since he has no chance whatsoever, I would go GOP. McCain has the experience and qualifications to run America. He's a supporter of free trade and would be better for Canada. But he faces an uphill battle and he knows it. That's the only explanation for picking Sarah "I Can See Russia from My House" Palin.

Despite the fact that my man will probably not win and the Dems will get a supermajority in Congress, I suppose I wouldn't mind an Obama administration that much. All hail the high priest of hope-and-change.

Antony Ta

NONE OF THE ABOVE

The impending global economic crisis has shaken not only worldwide bank accounts; it has also shaken the foundations of both major campaigns, built on promises of big public spending. Both major candidates have since committed to the Bush "bailout" package, raising eyebrows about where that leaves the financial future of Americans. This has the unintended response of holding Americans hostage to their wallets rather than to their common sense.

"McCain has the experience and qualifications to run America. He's a supporter of free trade and would be better for Canada."

KEVIN DAY

Proposing energy independence as a means of ensuring national oil supplies for the maintenance of "status quo" American standards of living, while simultaneously promising an increase in the usage and investment into "green" technologies and research, is an ironic promise of which both candidates are guilty. Commitments to both forms of energy security can't occur without detriment to the other: the advent of more reliable "greener" technologies would necessitate the use of less carbon-heavy energy forms such as coal, gasoline, and petroleum. This reveals a lack of understanding regarding energy policy and the science behind it. Their mutual indecision indicates future energy policies will be swayed by the strength of the successful lobby instead of merit.

The dumbing down of the issues by the candidates so that they can be used as political fish-bait slights the ability of ordinary Americans to understand them, and encourages the twisted version of

events sold on their national media. The pandering of these two politicians to the values of the "alienated" demographics of America is not only an insult to the people whose votes they intend to procure, but to democracy itself. Joe Biden is supposed to be a counterbalance to John McCain, since they're chiseled out of the same stone, whereas Sarah Palin was wryly chosen to entice the unrepresented female vote.

Either McCain or Obama will derail the chance to fix problems created after eight years of the Bush administration and will fail to seize the opportunity to fix what has been truly broken over the long term: a sense of connectedness to the rest of the world.

It's hard to support either candidate, because the criticisms for both are so similar that they read like a carbon copy. Would this be a situation where one should choose the "lesser of two evils"? Hardly.

Choose apathy, then, because the presidential candidates haven't given Americans a reason to care.

Gary Allen

BARACK OBAMA

It's customary at election times to acknowledge views from both the right and left side of the spectrum as valid for discussion and respectfully discuss the merits of each candidate. While I would support Barack Obama either way because of his views and campaign performance, this is a campaign in which voting for the McCain/Palin ticket is actually idiotic and the discussion of such issues is unworthy of regular decorum.

For argument's sake, let's pretend that I was initially a McCain supporter. A

logical person should have abandoned him the day he chose Sarah Palin as his running mate. The woman is clueless—and not just "politically clueless," but "everyday clueless." Regardless of party, John McCain is clearly not all there or he would've chosen a VP candidate with experience, integrity, and a substantially less annoying voice. Therefore, with the Republican option removed, one has to choose between the Democrats or an independent, and everyone knows that voting independent is a complete and utter waste of time.

This election has been marred by what amounts to a joke candidate who is completely unfit to be running for office. That the Republicans lie only a marginal number of points behind the Democrats in current polls is endemic of the current political climate in the US, in which the country is so divided on the base issues that almost half of the voters would vote for a ticket that includes Sarah Palin, a woman who doesn't even seem to understand the role of Vice President.

"Obama has come to represent the American Dream—the hope that hard work will allow anyone regardless of race, colour, or creed, to be the best they can be."

VICTOR VARGAS

It seems that voters on the right increasingly look for candidates who are more like themselves. Personally, I want to vote for someone who is better than me in every possible way. If I thought that I could do the job, then I would run myself, whereas the Palin supporters want a "hockey mom" to be second in command.

Today will more than likely see the first black president elected in the US, but unfortunately, Obama will have won more by default than anything else. The story of this election is Palin, who is the weakest VP candidate in memory, and who has made the Republican ticket a laughing stock.

Victor Vargas

BARACK OBAMA

I don't believe that Barack Obama will be the greatest president in American

history, or that his platform is that good. Frankly, I think Obama will, at most, have a passable performance that will get the US through the next few years. The reason Obama has to win this election is that losing will mean more than a McCain presidency—it will result in the entire free world losing any remaining respect they have for the American people.

Outside of the United States, Obamania has gripped the entire globe. Magazines and websites like *The Economist* have run polls showing that the vast majority of the world wants Obama as president. The town of Obama, Japan has been praying for an Obama presidency since the Democratic primaries began. And Kenya has all but given Obama citizenship, the throne, and adopted him as their child. The world is so entranced by him that if McCain were to win this Tuesday, the reputation of the United States would be irreparably damaged.

The world was able to forgive the American people the first time George W Bush was elected—after all, Al Gore barely lost after falling victim of some dirty tricks. And even the second time, while far less forgivable, Americans were tricked by the swift boat veterans. But to vote for a John McCain/Sarah Palin ticket would mean that the American people are alright with the last eight years of Republican rule.

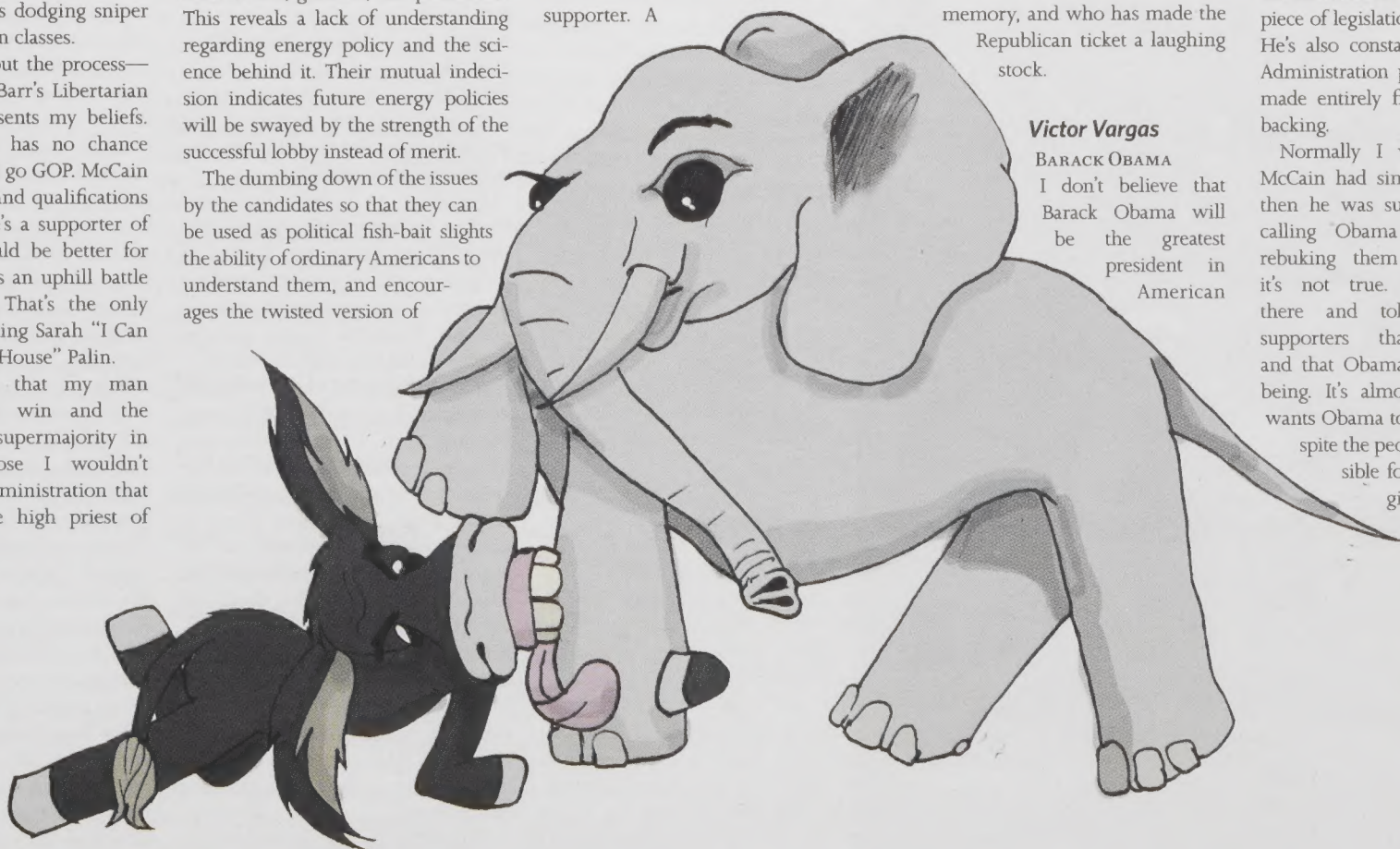
Worse, Obama has come to represent the American Dream—the hope that hard work will allow anyone regardless of race, colour, or creed, to be the best they can be. This means that a McCain victory will reinforce the idea that the United States is racist, war crazy, and ignorant.

The most fascinating thing about this election is that I truly believe John McCain sabotaged his own campaign.

First he chose Sarah Palin as his Vice-President, which caused talking heads everywhere to yell a collective "what the fuck" as it became clear that McCain had all but conceded the "experience" debate and alienated independent voters who were uncomfortable with a VP that has been protected from witchcraft.

Then there was McCain's emergency suspension of his campaign to go to Washington in order to push forward the bank bailout—the most unpopular piece of legislation in recent memory. He's also constantly supported Bush Administration policies when a cake made entirely from dung has more backing.

Normally I would surmise that McCain had simply gone crazy, but then he was surrounded by people calling Obama a closet terrorist, rebuking them and insisting that it's not true. He actually stood there and told ravenous, racist supporters that they're wrong and that Obama is a decent human being. It's almost as if he actually wants Obama to win—if only just to spite the people that were responsible for the infamous "illegitimate black Kansas baby."



Two Hours Traffic find comfort in books, booze

musicpreview

Two Hours Traffic

With *Hey Rosetta!* and *The Whitsundays*
Sunday, 9 November at 8pm
The Pawn Shop (10549-82 Ave)
\$10 tickets at Blackbyrd Myoozik,
Megatunes or ticketmaster.ca

GWYNETH DUNSFORD
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Alec O'Hanley holds a considerable distinction within the Canadian independent music community. Regrettably, his infamy lays not in the fact that his power pop group Two Hours Traffic was a finalist for the prestigious Polaris Music Prize, but rather that he was the only party-goer to be ejected from the award show's star-studded after-party.

"I got kicked out pretty early because I broke a bottle over the bar, and then I got a warning," O'Hanley explains. "[Afterwards], I dropped another bottle over the bar in my next trick. [Security] put their foot down there and gave me the old heave-ho."

Insisting on his innocence, the Prince Edward Island band's guitarist clarifies that his fit of destruction wasn't a reaction to having lost the coveted \$20 000 prize to electro-pop musician Caribou. Surprisingly, one is apt to believe him; with his thick PEI brogue and obliging manner, even through an impersonal phone conversation, O'Hanley conveys a

charming sageness.

"When we go on tour, we don't stay in hotel rooms and snort cocaine," O'Hanley admits. "We tend to go to public libraries—we're pretty big bookworms. [Singer] Liam [Corcoran] and I are both chemistry majors with english minors, [so both subjects] creep in through our tunes."

Digressing from his academic leanings, O'Hanley reveals his eerie preoccupation with the ephemerality of youth. He relates particularly to Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, viewing its themes of hedonism and aging as grand motifs in pop music.

"When we go on tour, we don't stay in hotel rooms and snort cocaine. We tend to go to public libraries—we're pretty big bookworms."

ALEC O'HANLEY
GUITARIST, TWO HOURS TRAFFIC

Yet despite his own scant maturity of 24 years, O'Hanley takes a decidedly patronizing tone towards his ensemble's younger fans. These latter were likely garnered by Two Hours Traffic's inclusion in television shows common with the teeny-bopper crowd, namely *The OC*, *Gossip Girl*, and *One Tree Hill*.

"We seem to gravitate towards the adolescent melodrama for some reason. It wasn't a conscious effort, but



if those TV shows want to take some of our tunes, we aren't adverse to that. Kids listen to pop these days, I hear."

Another subject of O'Hanley's scorn is the role of hype in the music industry. He decries the scourges of trendiness and disdains its centrality to the independent music scene. To combat the threat of hype, he and some musical colleagues have sought to return music to the grassroots periphery by starting their own music label, Collagen Rock Records. From this assembly of Maritime bands came the so-called "Canadian Maritime Pop Revival," of which Two Hours Traffic claims inclusion.

"It is a certain approach to tunesmanship which has started in the last few years. [Along] with our friends Smothered in Hugs and our sister band The Danks, we are really trying to focus on being universal, but also relevant while shying away from any trendiness in any form. [East Coast musicians] are kind of a underdog community compared to the larger 'hype' centers here in Canada. It makes perfect sense to band together, so to speak."

While keeping his penchant for critical commentary, O'Hanley isn't above any boozy shenanigans, if the incident at the Polaris after-party is

any indication. Yet, he conveys only sincere remorse over his most recent misdeed. Sheepish about his antics, O'Hanley nonetheless recounts his latest date with infamy while playing a gig at a Halifax church.

"It was a blast to play a rock show in a church; people were dancing in the pews! [While] the show itself was in good spirits, it was blasphemous to walk in [to the church] with a quart of Jack Daniel's. That was probably not a good move in God's books. Particularly when I went into what I thought was the church basement and interrupted an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting."

Using fluffers and lube to find true love

Kevin Smith's characters forge a wholesome bond by taking advantage of sin

filmreview

Zack and Miri Make a Porno

Directed by Kevin Smith
Starring Seth Rogen, Elizabeth Banks,
and Jason Mewes
Now Playing

IAN PHILLIPCHUK
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Zack and Miri Make a Porno is a movie about good friends, true love, and pornography. If that last word causes a double take, avoid this film as it's pretty likely that you won't enjoy it. But for those that can accept a little casual nudity, soft-core sex, and copious amounts of off-colour humour, you'll find that director Kevin Smith has crafted the funniest movie this year.

Seth Rogen and Elizabeth Banks star as the titular Zack and Miri, and early on, the pair's financial situation is established as the driving force for the movie. After they make a hilarious cameo at a long-time friend's high school reunion, the pair finds themselves drinking their woes away in a bar after their home's power and water have been cut off. After Miri comments that these are the exact circumstances people find themselves in just before they start making pornography, they discover that this is just the idea that they're looking for, and it's not long before they start filming

the porno in question.

Throughout the production of "Swallow My Cockaccino," the title of their low-budget work of art, we're introduced to the motley cast of characters that bring the film-within-a-film to life. Lester, Barry, Stacey, and Bubbles (Jason Mewes, Ricky Mabe, Katie Morgan, and Traci Lords respectively) are the "talent," while Delaney and Deacon (Craig Robinson and Jeff Anderson) finance and man the camera for the sordid affair.

Amazingly, in a movie that's centered on the making of a pornographic video, it's not about sex. Instead of focusing on the more explicit aspects, director Smith ensures the movie becomes about the humor and the journey of the two main characters.

Near the end, the obvious romantic subplot rolls out and the movie becomes more about the characters than the porno. It would be easy for everything to come tumbling down at this point, but it sticks together, mainly due to the strength of the leads. If Rogen and Banks did not make you genuinely care about the cast, the transition from explicit sex-comedy to explicit sex-romantic-comedy could have been jarring and off-putting. Instead, the two deliver dynamite performances that elevate the movie above its subject matter to make it a movie about Zack and Miri, the characters.

This isn't to say that this is a romantic drama, as it's still a comedy at heart,

and that means it lives or dies on its jokes, which fly fast, furious, and raunchy. From Delany commenting on how unethical it is for an African-American to be working on "Black Friday," to a hilarious fecal joke that is perfectly placed, to a side-splitting cameo by Tyler Labine as a drunk customer, *Zack and Miri* will make you laugh during its entirety—though it doesn't completely rely on raunch.

Kevin Smith has written well-executed comedic dialogue before, as evidenced by his previously success with *Dogma* or *Clerks*. Like Tarantino, his specialty is in authentic dialogue. When Rogen and Banks discuss the gender bias towards the role of vibrators in modern society, the dialogue is ridiculous, but completely plausible. It's entirely possible that the whole of this movie could have taken place, and that makes the storyline and the jokes all the more believable. Whether it's Rogen observing a fight between two gay men as an outsider and commenting on it, or the posting of Bank's "granny panties" on a YouTube-like Internet service, *Zack and Miri* remains solidly grounded in reality.

In the end, Kevin Smith's film isn't pornography and it really isn't even about pornography at its heart. It's about two lovable losers making a porno and the humour contained in their little world, and it's a feeling anyone can relate to, even if they haven't set up a camera in their own bedroom.





The denouncing of Molly Hartley

filmreview

The Haunting of Molly Hartley

Directed by Mickey Liddell
Starring Haley Bennett, Jake Weber,
and Chace Crawford
Now Playing

SEAN STEELS
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Think of *The Haunting of Molly Hartley* as a cross between *Mean Girls* and *The Exorcism of Emily Rose*. Not that there's anything wrong with trying something new, but like mixing cheese strings and chocolate granola bars, sometimes a combination just isn't in the cards.

However, that doesn't necessarily make *The Haunting of Molly Hartley* a poor film—just poorly advertised. Marketed as this Halloween's premier scare flick, it tricks moviegoers crying out for gore, ghosts, screams, and scares into spending their money on what is actually a puffy tween drama that could have featured Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens front and centre.

The movie begins well enough, as the credits slink ghoulishly over the ominous canopy cover of small town central USA. The year is 1997,

and young Laurel Miller, wearing the skimpiest of summer dresses, makes her way to an abandoned cabin, facing your usual assortment of cheap shock scares until she finds her boyfriend waiting with an engagement necklace. Cue steamy teen make-out. All goes according to plan until the girl's father arrives to wrest her from the arms of her hunky beau.

But all is not as it seems. It seems Laurel is haunted by strange voices, and on the drive home, her father goes crazy, spewing religious nonsense and crying what every other parent has screamed into the night from sweat-soaked sheets: "I can't let you turn 18!" After a brief, lead-footed drive, the car is T-boned by a passing produce truck and the father finishes her off with a shard of broken glass.

The audience is now haunted by two possibilities: he really wanted Laurel to hang on to that V-card, or he was preventing the onset of a terrible demonic presence that would grip her on the eve of her 18th birthday. The devil has a thing for North American rites of passage, apparently.

Fast forward to present day and the life of Molly Hartley, another young girl haunted by nightmares and voices. Unfortunately, the '90s shenanigans of young Laurel are the last film-goers will see of ghosts or any overtly

scary activities for a while. Somewhere around the half hour mark, Director Mickey Liddell mixes it up with a brief shock scare with a medicine cabinet window, then plunges the viewer into another half hour of scareless antics.

But what fills this entertainment void, you ask? Why, teen angst, of course. As the outsider at a new school, Molly Hartley (Haley Bennett) has to try and cope with her past while trying her best to fit in. The fact that she has a two-inch scar on her chest from when her uber-religious mother stabbed her with a pair of scissors to prevent her impending demonic possession seems irrelevant compared to what really haunts Molly: frequent nosebleeds and a raging she-boner for Efron surrogate Joseph Young (Chace Crawford of *Gossip Girl* fame).

The film bogs down so thoroughly in teen dramatics that it burns through an hour of film reel before Molly's birthday even arrives. And by the time her nosebleeds subside, the audience is more focused on something besides the devil entering her body.

Will she land the boyfriend of her dreams and finally be popular? Will she use her totally non-sequitur kung-fu skills for good or for evil? Let's just say that with a hand from the dark lord, anything is possible—just ask Lindsey Lohan.

Lucky an uneven look at life and driving

filmreview

Happy-Go-Lucky

Directed by Mike Leigh
Starring Sally Hawkins, Eddie Marsan,
and Alexis Zegerman
Now Playing

ALEXANDER WITT
Arts & Entertainment Writer

It wouldn't seem like driving lessons could be an interesting enough topic to make a movie about. But then again, when most people learn to drive, they don't have a driving instructor who's both passive-aggressive and infatuated with them, and they likely aren't a bubbly, female British school teacher.

Imagine two months worth of the more exciting events in the life of London's unmarried middle class condensed into a cinematic exposé, and you have *Happy-Go-Lucky*.

The film begins with Poppy (Sally Hawkins) biking through London on a Saturday morning. A band ensemble plays a happy tune and it initially feels like this might be a British *Amélie*.

But *Happy-Go-Lucky* isn't an unfolding mystery full of mischief and self-discovery; it's more of a daily grind, without the twists and turns in stories that make movies fun.

Poppy's bike is stolen at the end of the first scene, forcing her to take public transportation to get to work. Being a woman of accessories, it doesn't work out, and she decides that she has to learn how to drive. Enter Scott, the instructor (Eddie Marsan). He's pedantically serious and down to business, ever repeating driving instructions, like checking the "golden triangle" of driver's mirrors. Poppy intervenes with lines like "is that like a pubic triangle?" This type of off-topic banter works well, as this movie wouldn't have any gas in its tank without it.

Happy-Go-Lucky isn't an unfolding mystery full of mischief and self-discovery; it's more of a daily grind, without the twists and turns in stories that make movies fun.

Hawkins is spot-on as the animated teacher who is far too outgoing and flirtatious for her middle-class milieu. She's the cheeriest of shopper who seems to be less out for shopping than for unrequited social interactions. Her gregarious and colourful clothes and

the ridiculous strut of her high heels make her seem clownish.

Poppy has a snappy one-liner for everything that her instructor says. Her sniping and sassy comments pass the point of cruelty just to make herself laugh. It seems vaguely self-aware that the teacher becomes the taught, but in terms of character development, she never realizes that she's possibly the rudest student ever. Some may find her excessively annoying, but she can also be painfully authentic, and it's Hawkins' consistent performance that gives this driving lesson movie its wheels.

Marsan is equally convincing as the xenophobic white British guy, right down to his heinous teeth; he seems at first to be merely pedantic and over-worked. But the more we see of him, the less sympathetic and the less interesting he is as he becomes more of a caricature of a social inept who wants the immigrants to go home and everyone to read their Bible.

If *Happy-Go-Lucky* is just supposed to be an exposé of the life of a single London school teacher, it gets a green light. Women will probably enjoy this film for its girlish moments much more than men. But anyone expecting a story with features like character development and catharsis, will be disappointed—the movie turned out to be about little more than driving instruction.

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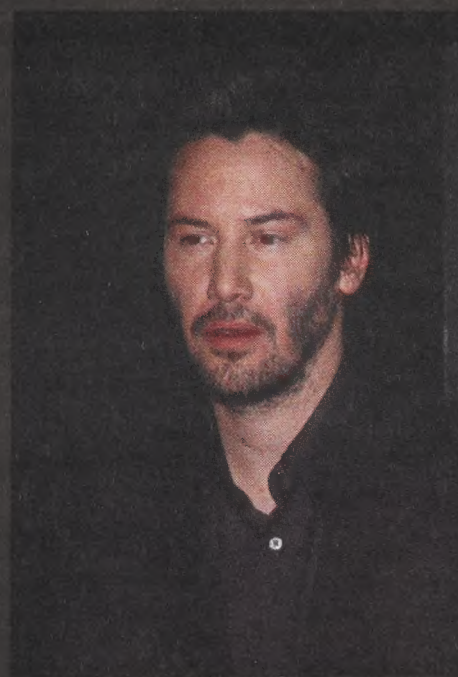
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Culture 101 Exhibit #8: Keanu Reeves



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Being under house arrest never felt so sarcastic

The cast of *Largo Desolato* uses repetition and motion to bring a comedic tone to Havel's semi-autobiographical work about dissent

theatrereview

Largo Desolato

Directed by Beau Coleman

Written by Vaclav Havel

Translated by Tom Stoppard

Starring Joel Crichton, Mari Chartier, Josh Dalledonne, Tess Degenstein, and Matthew Hulshof

Runs until 8 November at 7:30pm

Timms Centre for the Arts (87 Ave and 112 St)

\$10 for students at the door or at

tixonthesquare.com

HEATHER WILSON

Arts & Entertainment Writer

For a play about the suppression of creative thought and remaining hidden from the government, *Largo Desolato* is unnaturally funny.

Vaclav Havel's work is set in an over-the-top police state similar to the one Havel experienced in Czechoslovakia in his early days as a playwright. The protagonist, a professor named Leopold, is so deathly afraid of being sent to jail for what he has written that he spends all of his time dwelling on the possibility. As much as this may sound like fodder for a bleak story about activists with heartfelt integrity, *Largo Desolato* is a comedy at its core.

Though the play may be dark, the brilliant cast had the audience in stitches time after time. Having worked intensely with a movement coach to perfect their intricate motions, the actors give their exaggerated characters very specific mannerisms and amplified gestures. Their speech is likewise overstated for effect, and the larger-than-life characters combined with the clean lines of the simplistic sets result in a sensationalized, futuristic world where everyone is paranoid. This feeling rubs off on the audience, who feel as though they're in the midst of a Joseph Heller novel.

Havel makes expert, comedic use of repetition to the extent that any viewer can anticipate many of the lines, having heard them several times already. In one particularly elaborate example of Havel's style, Leopold serves rum to one of his guests, Sidney, who robotically

thanks him, proclaims "cheers!" to his companion, and swigs back the drink. This interaction happens again in the same way—as though a film reel were being replayed—six times before Sidney puts his other hand over his glass before it would have reached his mouth and proclaims sardonically, "Someone's got to be sensible."

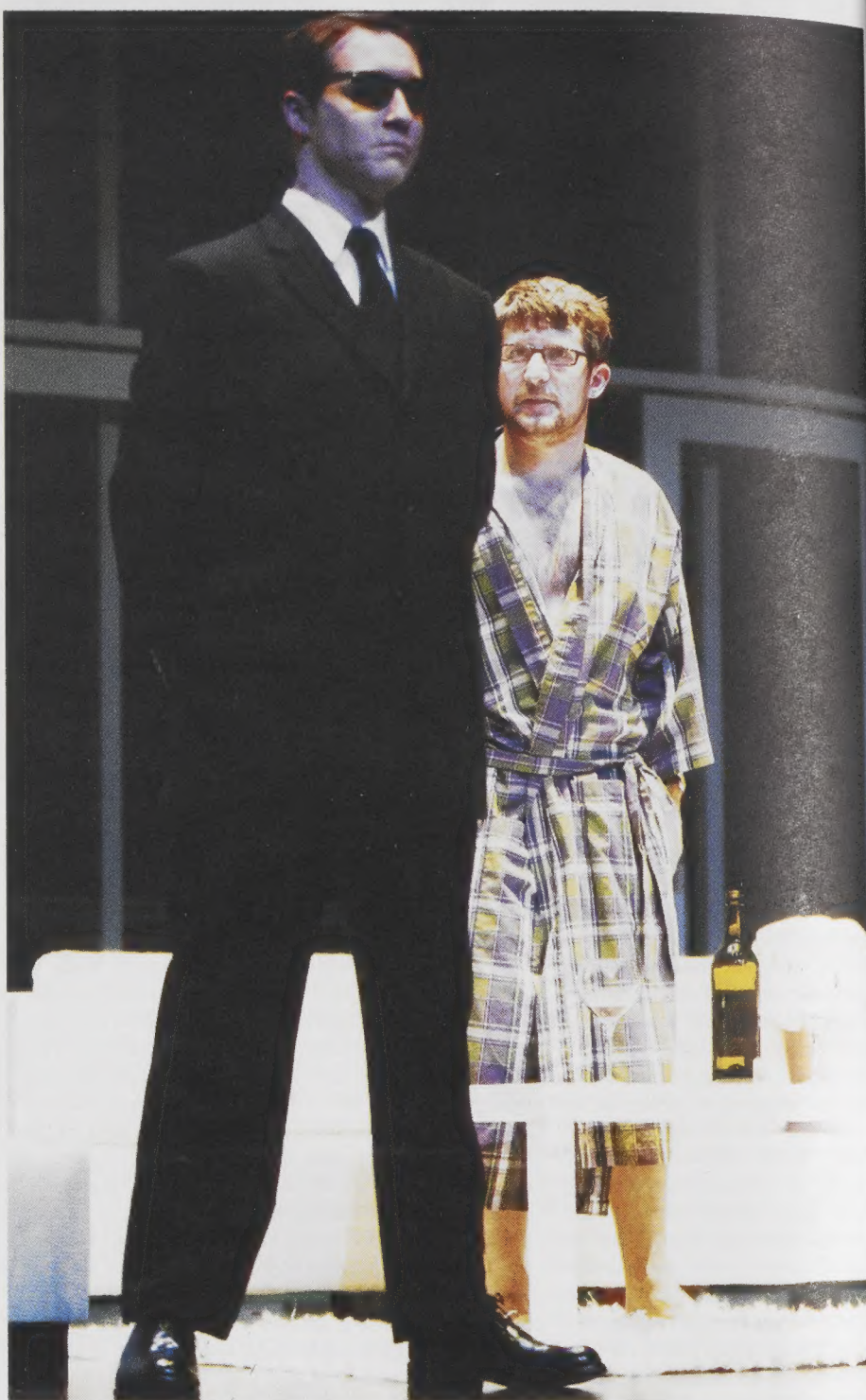
Although every motion and every word is deliberate and hyperbolic, the actual events which are discussed at great length are low-key. This ironic contrast, along with the fact that there's an endless rotation of the same characters through the never-changing living room set, creates a world in which there's always so much going on, but nothing ever happens. Both the playwright and director aimed to achieve this skillful sarcasm and succeeded entirely.

Although every motion and every word is deliberate and hyperbolic, the actual events which are discussed at great length are low-key.

The play is well-written, expertly directed by director Beau Coleman, and has been aptly translated from Czech by Tom Stoppard, but it's the actors who shine the most in this production. Almost all of the eleven actors must repeat the same motions and phrases countless times without so much as a toe out of place.

While it's far from being a musical, they still require the poise of dancers and the eloquence of singers to accomplish their precise movements and endless tongue-twisting monologues. This is especially true of Joel Crichton, who plays Leopold and has to repeat his first scene three times, with the curtain dropping at the end of the scene the first two times, and the audience scrutinizing him as if under a microscope as he gives them their first impression of the play to come.

But the humour and expertise of this first scene, in triplicate even, pave the way for an off-kilter, but wildly entertaining hour and forty minutes. No intermission is needed because *Largo Desolato* is not an experience one needs a break from, but is a refreshing recess from the real world.



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THAT'S NOT HOW YOU SCARE HIM Greg Gardner (21) lays into a Cougar during a race for the puck.

PETE YEE

Sorochan's surprising return gives Bears lift

Goaltending helps Alberta to consecutive 2-1 wins over Regina

EVANDALM

On a weekend that saw the Bears raise their record 13th national championship banner to the rafters of Clare Drake Arena, they were also able to complete a two-game sweep of the Regina Cougars, with identical 2-1 victories both Friday and Saturday night. With the sweep, the Bears improved to 6-2-0 in Canada West play, taking sole possession of second place in the conference, behind only Saskatchewan.

Both games proved to be goaltending battles, with Bears goalie Aaron Sorochan getting the better of Cougars Brant Hilton, who was spectacular at times, but found no support on the front lines. Sorochan, the Bears number-one netminder, returned to the net for the first time in over two weeks after sitting out with a high ankle sprain, improving his record to 3-0-0 on the season. Sorochan was solid all weekend when tested, making 21 saves Friday, along with another 22 in Saturday night's contest.

Aside from just his puck-stopping skills, Bears head coach Eric Thurston realizes that Sorochan's ability to play the puck is invaluable to the Bears, especially against a hard-nosed team like Regina.

"It's really positive, insofar that he sees the puck so well, but his ability to handle the puck helps your defence from the wear and tear of going back," explained Thurston. "It's usually moved by the forecheck, and they're not getting pounded against the glass."

With Sorochan, one of the more experienced netminders in all of Canada West, the Bears have a level of confidence which translates into a more explosive team playing in front of him.

"It's that confidence level that if you make a mistake, he's going to be there and that really lets your team play a lot looser, and play with the

confidence, and play steady [knowing] he's going to be there," Thurston explained. "That's why he has two national championship rings, and in my opinion, he and Hilton are the top two goalies in Canada West, and possibly the country."

Sorochan's return to the lineup was in some ways a surprise, as the Bears coaching staff was anticipating his return to likely come next weekend at home against the Lethbridge Pronghorns.

"He's a confident kid, which I like," Thurston said. "He came to me Wednesday and said, 'if I can go 100 per cent today, I want to go Friday.' He practiced 100 per cent, and really, for him to get him back into that game shape we need Aaron to be in [made] it a good four-point weekend for us."

The Bears ended up being too much for Regina on both nights, outplaying the Cougars for the majority of both games. The Cougars were kept in both games by their second-year goaltender Hilton, who was able to singlehandedly keep his team within striking distance of the Bears. Hilton made 65 saves on 69 shots over the two games, and picked up first-star honours Friday night, along with second-star honours Saturday.

Alberta managed to keep the Regina off the scoresheet with the extra man, something the Bears coaching staff had hoped to improve on. The Cougars couldn't capitalize on their lone attempt Friday, and went zero for six with the extra man Saturday. Down 2-1 in the third, with Hilton pulled for the extra attacker, Bears forward Derek Ryan took a tripping penalty with only 34 seconds left, giving the Cougars a six-on-four advantage, but the Bears were able to weather the storm to hold on for another 2-1 victory.

"These games are good character builders for you when you've really got to dig down deep and make smart plays, and get in those good habits of keeping pucks low, working pucks low—not playing high-risk hockey," explained Thurston.

New facility to increase services for local Paralympians

Sport Development Centre to work with U of A's Steadward Centre in developing better access to sport and fitness for the disabled

SUNNY CHAN

Paralympic athletes in the Alberta area will soon be able to access invaluable resources thanks to the newly announced Alberta Sport Development Centre—Capital Region. Funded in part by the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation (ASPRWF), the new Alberta Sport Development Centre (ASDC) will work in collaboration with the existing Steadward Centre to provide support to athletes, especially those with disabilities.

As a disability research centre at the U of A, the Steadward Centre focuses on offering sport and fitness programming for children, youth, and adults with disabilities. ASPRWF spokesman Dan Huang explained that although the new Sport Development Centre will offer services for all athletes, paralympians will be an important focus because of the partnership with the Steadward Centre.

"There is no other facility like it in Alberta, so it's a unique opportunity for Alberta Sport Development Centres to branch into that area," Huang said.

A proposal for the new centre was submitted by the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation to ASPRWF in January 2008. Although details haven't been finalized, both Huang and U of A representatives are certain that the sport centre will be open in the next year.

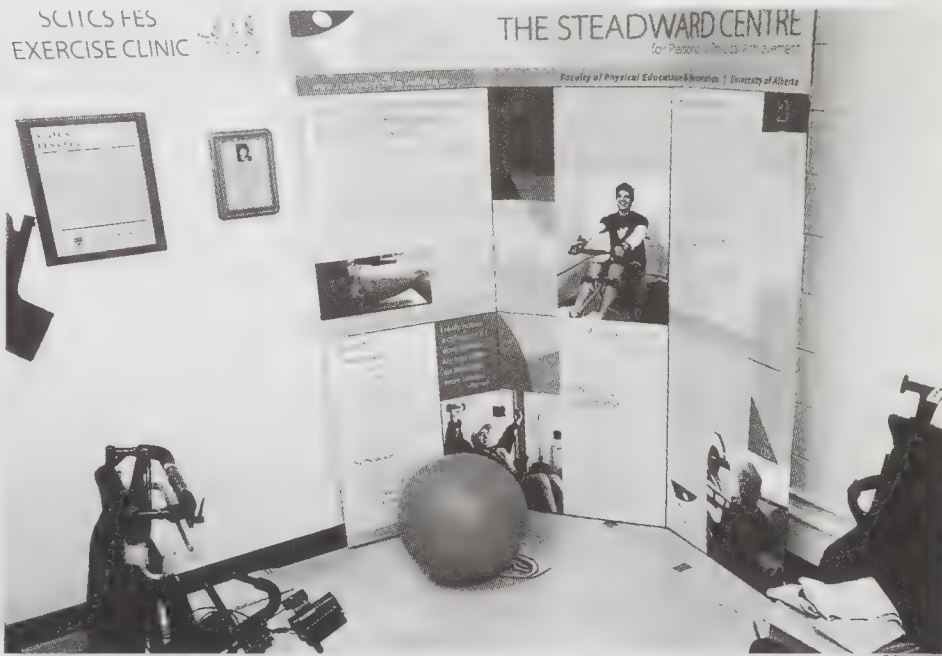
Katie Spriggs, Associate Director of U of A Athletics, clarified that the new Sport Development Centre will not be a new structure but will instead be a network of existing services such as sport psychology, nutrition, medicine, coaching development, and athlete performance testing.

"There are no new facilities that accompany this announcement, but it will be the development of consolidated information and access to some services that athletes with a disability may not have been able to access before. The Centre focuses on development of an athlete—with a disability or without—and the types of questions and information they and their coaches need," Spriggs said.

The new Sport Development Centre will be operated with a combined annual contribution of \$100 000 from ASPRWF and \$40 000 from Sport Canada. These new services and information will be a beneficial boost to what is currently available through the various national, provincial, and municipal channels. In addition, they will help reach out to up-and-coming athletes who may not have received adequate support before.

"Before athletes advance to levels where they may be eligible for support and service through Canadian Sport Centres, they may be able to access support through the Alberta Sport Development Centre network," Spriggs said.

"Because of the expertise of the Steadward Centre and the professionals here, it is reasonable



PETE YEE

HARDER, BETTER, FASTER, STRONGER New training options will be easily accessible at the ASDC.

to create an ASDC—Capital Region that can integrate athletes with disabilities and able-bodied athletes together. It puts emerging athletes with a disability in the capital region with access to the same information and services as athletes without a disability," she added.

The centre will also be an advantageous

resource for the U of A's own Golden Bears and Pandas sports teams, which will have ready access to the ASDC. Ultimately, it is anticipated that the new centre will help promising athletes and their coaches develop from the provincial sport level toward national and international competition.

SPORTS
SHORTS

Compiled by Matt Pretty

Pandas Hockey

The Pandas field hockey team put forth an inspired effort and performed well beyond expectations at the CIS championships in Victoria this past weekend, earning a silver medal in the process. In the five-team preliminary round-robin, Alberta fell to UBC 2-1 on Thursday before shutting out Victoria 1-0 on Friday. A pair of matches on Saturday yielded a 2-2 draw with Guelph, followed by a 2-1 win over Toronto. The Pandas tied with UBC for the second-best record at 2-1-1 with a plus-one goal differential, but Alberta drew into the gold-medal game against Victoria based on their superior goals-for tally with seven.

In the championship final, Alberta's women fell behind early to the Vikes, who would hold on to narrowly win the match 2-1. Alberta finished in second place, coming away with their first CIS field hockey medal since their gold-medal run in 2005. Pandas Lisa Fay, Bunny Hughes, and Erin Mason were all named tournament All-Stars. UBC followed behind Alberta with the bronze medal after shutting out the fourth-place Guelph Gryphons 3-0, while the top-seeded Toronto Varsity Blues finished in fifth place.

Pandas Rugby

The CIS Championship at Lethbridge ended in disappointment for the Pandas rugby crew. In the preliminary round on Friday morning, Alberta lost to the Guelph Gryphons 15-5, and then had to turn around and play the St Francis Xavier X-Women immediately

after, mustering a 5-5 draw. The tie relegated the Pandas to the fifth-place game on Sunday, meaning that they failed to qualify for a much-desired and much-anticipated rematch with the host Pronghorns.

In the consolation match, the Pandas fell yet again, this time to the Western Ontario Mustangs by a margin of 22-5. Chelsea Stone and Karlee Carbert were the only Pandas to find the scoresheet in the tournament—Carbert recorded her try against the Mustangs, while Stone scored both Alberta tries in the preliminary round. Stone, the Canada West player of the year, was also named a tournament All-Star.

Lethbridge repeated as CIS champions with a 29-15 win over St FX in the gold medal game, while Guelph took the bronze medal with a 22-12 defeat of Laval.

Pandas Soccer

The Pandas soccer team made a quick exit from the Canada West final six, losing their quarter-final match to Manitoba 4-0. Alberta stayed level until the Bisons broke through with a goal just two minutes before halftime. They added another one three minutes after halftime and then padded their lead by scoring two goals in two minutes with twelve minutes left. Though goalkeeper Krista Gavin put up a gutsy eleven-save performance, Alberta wasn't able to find the net despite firing nine shots at the Manitoba goal.

The news wasn't all bad for Alberta, however, as defender Jacqueline Smith was named a first-team Canada West All-Star and won the conference Student-Athlete Award. Defender Veronique Mayer also made the first All-Star team, while Keshia Wallin was named to the second team.

Golden Bears Soccer

The Bears fared no better than their



LEAH SCHEITEL, THE MARTLET

SILVER LINING Pandas forward Erin Mason works her way through two Vikes defenders at the national final in Victoria.

Panda counterparts, as they dropped their Canada West semi-final to Victoria by a score of 2-1, giving up a 1-0 lead with less than 15 minutes to go. Ammon Hoefs tallied the only goal for Alberta in the effort.

In the bronze medal game, UBC defeated the Bears by a 3-1 margin, with Kevin Perry hitting the scoresheet. Alberta finished up in fourth place in Canada West, while Victoria took the Canada West title and moves on to the CIS Championships along with Trinity Western.

The Bears, however, aren't coming

home completely empty-handed as they earned the conference Team Fair Play award for the season. Alberta also placed four players on the Canada West First All-Star team—Harman Braich, John Konye, Dan Nielsen, and Brett Colvin. Ammon Hoefs made the second All-Star team as well.

Pandas Hockey

The puck Pandas came out on the short end of not one, but two games on the road this weekend. In Winnipeg, the Manitoba Bisons (8-0-0) beat Alberta (6-2-0) by scores of 6-2 and 3-2 on

Friday and Saturday respectively.

Both games marked the first time that the Bisons had ever swept a series in a weekend set. Manitoba netminder Stacey Corfield was the star of the weekend, as she stopped 14 of 15 Pandas shots. Jenn Newton also notched two goals this weekend—Mucci, and Miranda Miller were the only ones to beat Corfield, who improved her conference-leading save percentage to .944. The Pandas now have a bye week before heading back out on the road to take on the Saskatchewan Huskies on 15-16 November.



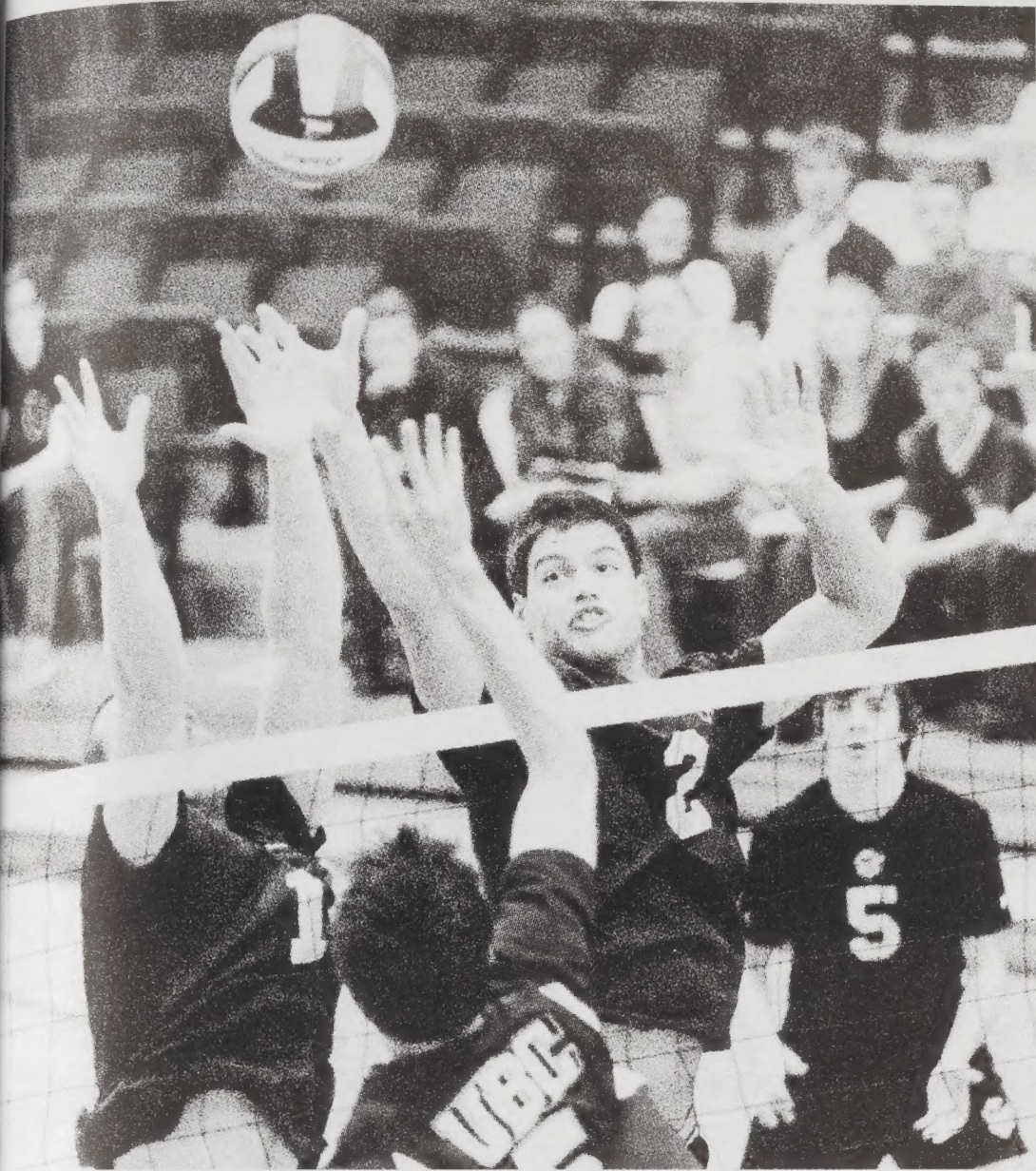
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LAUREN STIEGLITZ

SOARING TO GREATER HEIGHTS Mike DeRocco (1) and Spencer Leiske (2) watch on as the ball sails over their block.

Volleyball Bears dish out all tricks, no treats against UBC

NICK FROST
Sports Editor

On a weekend that saw Halloween costumes adorning the stands at the Main Gym, there was no masking the solid effort put up by the Golden Bears volleyball team in earning a complete sweep of the UBC Thunderbirds with back-to-back 3-0 victories on Friday and Saturday night.

Two stellar evenings from Alberta's defence ended up having the largest hand in the team's path to success, both in the backcourt and at the net. The Bears capitalized on a number of well-recovered balls—some that seemed destined for the sidelines—by turning them into points, out-digging the T-Birds by mid-teen margins on both nights in the process. The Bears blocking was also up to par, with middle Justin Merta leading the charge earning seven total blocks across Friday and Saturday. Head coach Terry Danyluk was pleased with the overall defensive effort, but would still like to see a little more emphasis on net defence.

"I thought we didn't block as well as we did last weekend, but definitely dug more balls, which is good," Danyluk said. "When our block was in position to force them to hit at us—and that's the hope—I just thought we actually did a better job of controlling those balls than we have in the past."

While Alberta's effort was consistent enough all-around to notch them wins in each match, both Friday and Saturday's tilts seemed to be reversals of each other featuring two particularly-strong sets and one where the Bears appeared to lack the same jump. On Friday, the men's side came out of

the gates slow—ultimately prevailing in a close 25-20 set win—before hitting their stride and carrying momentum into a much more decisive final two sets.

"We weren't playing real well in the first game and it just a question of solidifying our effort—guys were jumping in front of each other and were late getting to balls," Danyluk said.

"When our block was in position to force them to hit at us—and that's the hope—I just thought we actually did a better job of controlling those balls than we have in the past."

TERRY DANYLUK
BEARS VOLLEYBALL HEAD COACH

"I think the thing that always matters is that we have to be one step ahead of them instead of one step behind, and I think we picked up the pace and got into a better rhythm."

Meanwhile, Saturday's match saw Alberta come out swinging, earning their two largest-margin set victories of the weekend, scoring 25-15 in the first set and 25-13 in the second. However, after some crafty substitutions on the part of the Thunderbirds, Alberta struggled somewhat to adjust, which nearly cost them in squeaking out a 25-22 set win.

"We've been trying to work on

that all season because, even in the preseason, we've either gotten off to a slow start or we finish on kind of a low end," Golden Bears setter Mike DeRocco explained.

"Yesterday, after the slow start, we told ourselves that we were going to come out in the first few sets and play consistent. After the first two sets, everyone felt good, but I think we just got lackadaisical and sat back a little bit. We had to fight back, but thank God we prevailed."

"They made some changes and did some different things with their line-up, and we needed to adapt to that quickly," Danyluk added. "Their changes worked for a while until we settled in, but I think we didn't serve as well in the third as we did in the first two sets, and I think that made a big difference."

The Golden Bears finished the weekend leading the Thunderbirds in almost every statistical category, leaving the boys from Vancouver to wonder where they went wrong.

According to UBC head coach Richard Schick, the back-to-back losses came simply as a result of the combination of a tentative effort on his team's part, along with Alberta's strength, specifically in the backcourt where the Bears dominated from the service line.

"I think we played hesitant, but at the same time, Alberta played exceptionally well, especially from the service line and their serve-receive," Schick said. "It made a huge difference, and then you throw in their attacking, and it made things pretty discouraging for our younger guys. Am I pleased with it? No, I'm not happy, but I certainly don't think it's the be all, end all."

Gateway Moustache Competition Update

Week One: Stubble Trouble

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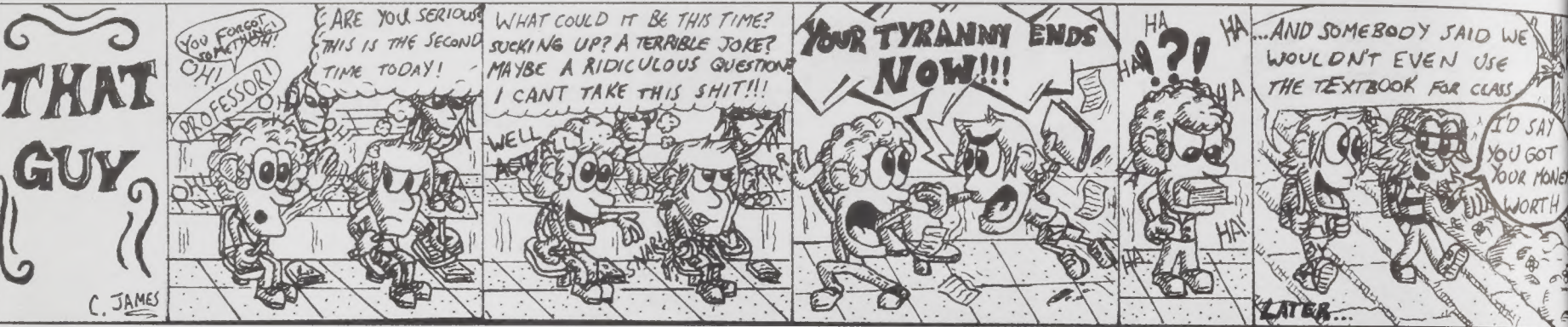
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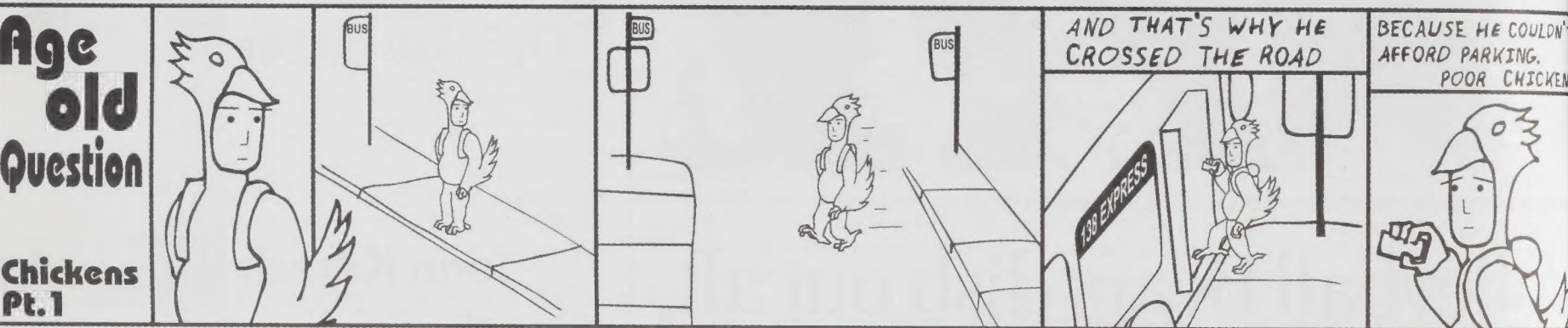
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MINOR ISSUES

I think our Chia pet is dead. It's mostly my fault; I've been really bad about watering him. Really, really bad. We should probably bury him, but we never really pinned down a name for him so what would his tombstone say? It's so tragic. Without his hair, Baldy/Spike/Kevin is nothing. Baldy came first, he didn't have hair then either. I guess we could just call him Baldy and keep him. That would be nice, unless he starts to smell. Then I'm throwing him in the trash. Baldy/Spike/ Kevin: Forever in our hearts.

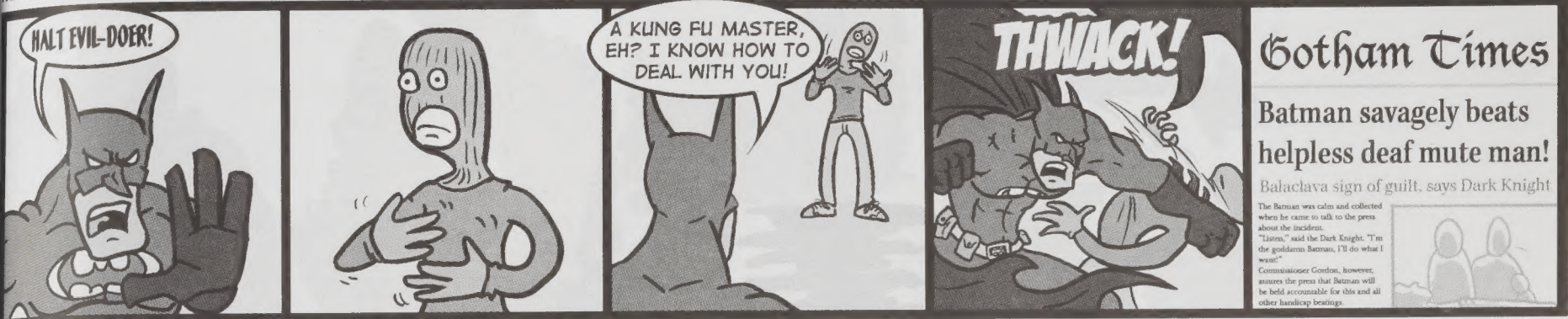


LAUREN STIEGLITZ

POP & ICE CREAM by Lance and Evan Mudryk



MAN VS NATURE by Conal Pierce



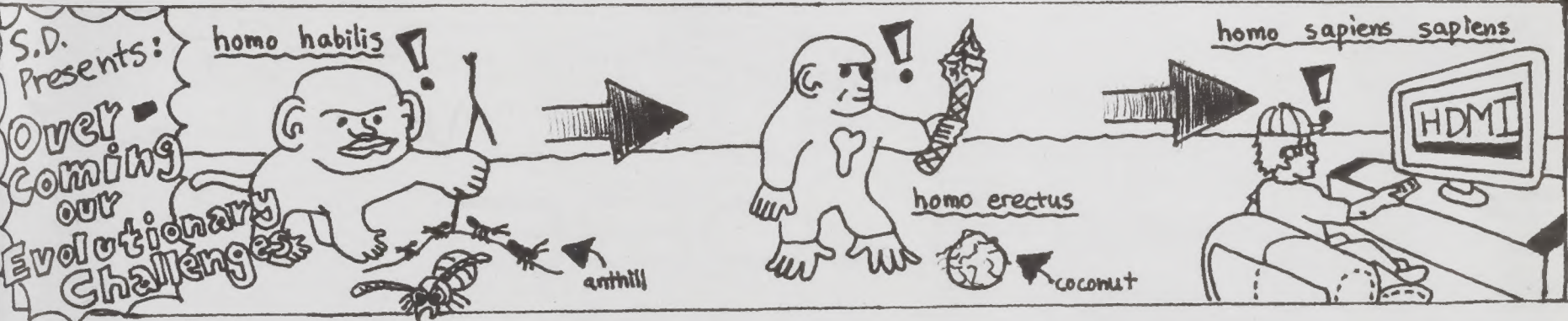
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